

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

UNCLAS ANKARA 9352

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, TU, GR
SUBJ: LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM: A TURKISH PRESS REPORT

REF: USNATO 11121(DTG 091902Z NOV 77)

1. IN AN ARTICLE DATED IN BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 26, MEHMET ALI BIRAND REPORTED IN THE MODERATE TURKISH DAILY "MILLIYET" THAT AT THE URGING OF THE OTHER NATO NATIONS, TURKEY HAD FINALLY AGREED TO CONDITIONALLY ALLOW GREECE TO BE "INVOLVED" WITH THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP). THE ARTICLE STATES THAT TURKEY HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED THAT ATHENS HAS ACCEPTED TURKEY'S CONDITIONS WHICH BIRAND REPORTS ARE:

- A. ALL LTDP DECISIONS BE TAKEN IN THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE WHERE GREECE IS NO LONGER REPRESENTED.
 - B. GREECE WILL NOT BE "REPRESENTED" IN THE LTDP WORKING GROUPS.
 - C. SENSITIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING TURKISH DEFENSES
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BE WITHHELD FROM GREECE.
D. LTDP WILL NOT BE LINKED WITH NATO-GREECE NEGOTIATIONS.
E. FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE LTDP WILL REQUIRE THE RETURN OF GREECE TO THE MILITARY WING OF NATO, WHICH IS, TURKEY INSISTS, DEPENDENT ON CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OF THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

2. BIRAND REPORTS THAT TURKEY AGREED TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED COMPROMISE RELUCTANTLY AND ONLY AFTER EXTRACTING A PLEDGE THAT THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CLOSE OF THE NATO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN DECEMBER INCLUDE A STRONG APPEAL FOR US RATIFICATION OF THE DCA.

3. THE "MILLIYET" ARTICLE GOES ON TO DISCUSS THE PRESENT "PARALYSIS OF THE SOUTHERN WING OF NATO" AND PREDICTS THAT GERMANY WHICH IS PARTICULARLY "SENSITIVE" TO THE DANGERS INHERENT IN THIS SITUATION WILL BEGIN TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SOLVING THE CAUSES OF THE PROBLEM.
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